

Remarks

Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Sandra Clark

OPDAT –West Africa Regional Workshop: Criminal Enforcement Tools in the Fight Against Corruption and Transnational Organized Crime

9:30 a.m., Monday, September 8, 2014

Radisson Blu Hotel

Director of Criminal Affairs and Pardons,

Participants and Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this workshop related to the fight against corruption and transnational organized crime. The United States Department of State and Department of Justice are pleased so many of you have taken time from your heavy workloads to attend this important workshop.

Some of you took part in a U.S. Department of Justice course on corruption in Benin in June 2013. I would like to thank you particularly.

This workshop comes at an important moment in the relationship between the United States and Africa. Last month, President Obama hosted the U.S. - Africa Leaders Summit. Presidents from each of your countries attended. We believe that this week’s program will promote many of the issues raised during the Africa Summit, such as

- Good Governance,
- Doing Business and Investing in Africa.

Fighting corruption is essential to promoting economic development, within this region, throughout Africa, and worldwide. Economic development requires honest, transparent government. That is why this workshop is so important: economic development begins with each of you, and your work.

We also know that corruption -- and all crime -- crosses national borders. The presence of so many officials from throughout the region is confirmation of your willingness to work cooperatively in the fight against fraud and corruption.

Thank you for your commitment to law enforcement. Your dedication is helping your families to enjoy a desire that all of our countries -- and peoples -- share: a peaceful and safe and prosperous Africa. Thank you.